AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A fullerene-antibiotic conjugate comprising at least one targeting agent coupled to a fullerene ~~moiety~~molecule, at least one linking molecule, and ~~one~~ at least two ~~or more~~ antibiotic molecules coupled to the fullerene ~~moiety~~ molecule; wherein at least two of the at least two antibiotic molecules are coupled to the fullerene molecule via a single linking molecule; and wherein the at least one targeting agent comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of bone-targeting moieties, bacteria-targeting moieties, sporulating microbe-targeting moieties, antigen binding sites, and combinations thereof.

2. (Original) The fullerene-antibiotic conjugate according to claim 1 wherein the fullerene comprises C_{60}.

3. (Original) The fullerene-antibiotic conjugate according to claim 2 wherein the antibiotic comprises vancomycin.

4. (Currently Amended) The fullerene-antibiotic conjugate according to claim 2 wherein the conjugate comprises from two to eight linking molecules and wherein at least one linking molecule couples at least two antibiotic molecules to the fullerene molecule. ~~includes at least two different antibiotic molecules per C_{60} center.~~

5. (Currently Amended) The fullerene-antibiotic conjugate according to claim 2 wherein the conjugate includes at least three antibiotic molecules per C_{60} center, at least two of the at least three antibiotic molecules coupled to the fullerene molecule via a single linking molecule.

6. (Original) The conjugate according to claim 1 wherein the antibiotic is selected from the group consisting of penicillins, cephalosporins, quinolones, fluoroquinolones, macrolides, lincosamines, carbepenems, conobactams, aminoglycosides, glycopeptides, tetracyclines, sulfonamides, rifampin, oxazolidonones, and streptogramins.

7. (Currently Amended) The conjugate according to claim ~~19~~, wherein the at least one targeting agent comprises diphosphonate~~comprises an antigen-binding site~~.

8. (Currently Amended) The conjugate according to claim ~~7~~ 1 wherein the at least one targeting agent is selected from the group consisting of targeting agents comprising at least one antigen bonding site selected from the group consisting of targeting agents derived from antibodies against anthrax and antibodies against ~~is capable of binding to~~ anthrax spores.

9. (Currently Amended) The conjugate according to claim 1, wherein the at least one targeting agent ~~further including a targeting agent comprising~~ comprises a bone-targeting moiety.

10. (Original) An antibiotic treatment comprising an aerosol mist comprising the fullerene-antibiotic conjugate of claim 1.

11. (Withdrawn) A method for making a fullerene(C_{60})-antibiotic conjugate, comprising:

a) synthesizing a linker precursor (I);

b) reacting the linker precursor (I) with C_{60} via a Bingel-reaction, to produce a fullerene-linker conjugate (II);

c) hydrolyzing the fullerene-linker conjugate (II), resulting in a desired derivative of C_{60} (III); and

d) reacting the derivative (III) with a desired antibiotic to produce a fullerene-antibiotic conjugate (IV).

12. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 11 wherein the linker precursor is a malonate having t-Boc-protected amino groups.

13. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 11 wherein the derivative made in step c) is an amino derivative.

14. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 11 wherein the Bingel-reaction in step b) is carried out in toluene.

15. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 11 wherein step c) is carried out using trifluoroacetic acid.

16. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 11 wherein the step d) is carried out in a DMF/DMSO solvent mixture.

17. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 11 wherein step d) is carried out using DIEA as a base and HBTU as a coupling agent.

18. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 11 wherein the step e) is carried out using acetonitrile.

19. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 11, further including precipitating a fullerene-antibiotic conjugate (IV) from the reaction mixture.

20. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 19, further including the additional step of washing the precipitated a fullerene-antibiotic conjugate (IV).

21. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 11, further including the step of incorporating the fullerene-antibiotic conjugate (IV) into a pharmaceutical composition.

22. (Withdrawn) A method of killing a microorganism infecting a mammal, the method comprising contacting said microorganism with a fullerene-antibiotic conjugate including at least one antibiotic molecule per fullerene moiety.

23. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a fullerene-antibiotic conjugate including at least onea targeting agent coupled to a fullerene ~~moiety~~molecule, at least one linking molecule, and ~~one~~ at least two ~~or more~~ antibiotic molecules coupled to the fullerene ~~moiety~~molecule; wherein at least two of the at least two antibiotic molecules are coupled to the fullerene molecule via a single linking molecule; and wherein the at least one targeting agent comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of bone-targeting moieties, bacteria-targeting moieties, sporulating microbe-targeting moieties, antigen binding sites, and combinations thereof, said conjugate being present in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

24. (Withdrawn) A method of inhibiting the growth of a bacterial species in a human subject, comprising:

administering to a human subject having a bacterial infection or overgrowth a pharmaceutically acceptable composition containing fullerene-antibiotic conjugate in a dose effective to inhibit the growth of a bacterial species in the human subject.

25. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 24, wherein said fullerene-antibiotic conjugate comprises C_{60} conjugated with an antibiotic is selected from the group consisting of penicillins, cephalosporins, quinolones, fluoroquinolones, macrolides, lincosamines, carbepenems, conobactams, aminoglycosides, glycopeptides, tetracyclines, sulfonamides, rifampin, oxazolidonones, and streptogramins.

26. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18 wherein the administration is carried out by a technique selected from the group consisting of: non-systemic delivery routes, including colonic delivery routes, ingestive delivery routes, topical applications of cream, gel, or ointment, and systemic delivery routes, including inhalation, ingestion, injection, intravenous drip, implant, transdermal delivery routes, and transmucosal delivery routes.

27. (Previously Presented) The conjugate according to claim 1, wherein said conjugate is water-soluble.

28. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 23, wherein said conjugate is water-soluble.